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he struck the coast, and recross the island by his former route. The expedition took about three months.

Lord DONOUGHMORE asked if on the western coast there was any harbour or roadstead likely to give protection to shipping, because these forests then might be rendered extremely valuable.

Mr. HARPER replied, there was no harbour worth speaking of until you came down to Milford Haven, in the south-west corner of the island, and all round there the coast was indented with fiords. But where the Mawhera or Grey River entered the sea small steamers had lately crossed the bar, and a settlement was being formed there, the Government of Canterbury having spent a great deal of money in opening up a road along the route which he took. A harbour on the west coast would have been a great boon, because it would have placed Canterbury in direct communication with Australia.

The PRESIDENT asked if the fiords on the west of Otago Province were deep.

Mr. HARPER said they were very fine harbours, but so deep that it was difficult to find anchorage.

3. The fourth and concluding Paper was—

An Exploration up the Moisie River to the edge of the Table-Land of the Labrador Peninsula. By HENRY YULE HIND, M.A., F.R.G.S., &c., Trinity College, Toronto.

THIS river had been for centuries the canoe-route of the Montagnais Indians, from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the interior, and latterly has been similarly used by the Nasquapee Indians, whose hunting-grounds are on the table-land. Its mouth is 18 miles east of Bay of Seven Islands, and its course is almost due north. The north-east branch is separated by a very low water-parting from the headwaters of the Ashwanipi, or Hamilton River, the chief stream of the table-land, 1400 miles in length, by which it is possible to navigate its course to this point, and so complete the system of canal navigation through the interior. The numerous portage-paths, by their condition, indicate the antiquity of this route. The distinguishing features of the Moisie portion of which are the constant succession of rapids, falls, and impetuous currents; alternating with lakes of widely different levels, into which occasionally may be seen half-frozen streams descending from the barren hill-tops, which in winter become masses of ice, that fall with inconceivable violence into the valley below. Where the stream becomes too rapid for the canoes to stem it there are portages, one of which occurs so low down as 45 miles from its mouth. Where the north-east and north-west branches unite (both being of about equal volume), the channel is about 150 yards wide in June. The canoe-route lies for 25 miles up the Coldwater, a small affluent rising in Trout Lake, which, singular to say, throws off two considerable streams flowing in opposite directions. In this 25 miles the river falls fully 1500 feet. Beyond this lake occurs a comparatively level lake-track, strewn with innumerable boulders,

richly clothed with mosses and lichens, and sometimes 20 feet in diameter. Reaching the ledge of the table-land, the elevation was discovered to be about 1850 feet, the highest mountain visible being 2200. The course of the Ashwanipi, which forms the connecting link in the internal system of navigation, is roughly parallel to the gulf. Further on, a range of snow-capped mountains, two days' journey (about 60 miles) distant, was discernible in the north-east; while north and north-west was a bare undulating country, devastated by the numerous conflagrations that have swept over the country, and has greatly diminished the animals of the country, on the chase of which the Indians depended; in consequence of which the Montagnais Indians have been reduced to a handful, leading a miserable existence on the table-land.

The PRESIDENT, after thanking Professor Hind for his valuable communication, asked him to explain the peculiarity in the form of the pipes used by the different tribes of North American Indians near the course of the Moisie River, and also to mention some instances of lakes having two outlets; observing that correspondents of the '*Athenaeum*' had questioned the truth of Captain Speke's statement with reference to Lake Nyanza having two outlets.

Professor HIND said he would mention some instances that had come under his own observation of the existence of two outlets in lakes. The first was at Trout Lake, which occupied the summit of a subordinate mountain-range at an altitude of 1460 feet. It sent out in a north-east direction a tributary to the Moisie River, and in another direction the Coldwater River. He passed into Trout Lake by the Coldwater River, and passed out of it by the Moisie River tributary. The next was the Prairie-Portage Lake, which also has two outlets, one flowing into Lake Winnipeg and the other into Lake Superior. The natives are in the habit of passing from the Winnipeg watershed to that of Lake Superior by means of the Prairie-Portage Lake and its outlets, without taking their canoes out of the water. Then, from a lake and marsh in the Q'Appelle River valley there is a small river which flows into the elbow of the south branch of the Saskatchewan in a westerly direction, while from the same lake issues the Q'Appelle River, which, after a course of 276 miles, reaches the Assiniboine River in an easterly direction. The fourth instance consists of a series of lakes, three in number, known as the Backfat Lakes; they have a communication with the Souris River on the one hand, and with the Pembina River, an affluent of Red River, on the other. These were four instances of two outlets from lakes, through three of which he had himself passed, and the fourth he had seen from the summit of a mountain. Professor Hind then called attention to varieties of stone pipes on the table of different forms, and pointed out the peculiarity of each specimen as probably distinctive of the Indian nation by which it had been adopted. A certain type of pipe is used by the Chipewyans, whose hunting-grounds lie to the north of those belonging to the great Cree nation. The Crees have a type of pipe peculiar to themselves, and the form of those used by the Plain Crees at the foot of the Rocky Mountains is almost identical with the pipe of the Nasquapees, a tribe of the great Cree nation, on the table-land of the Labrador peninsula. The Ojibways, whose hunting-grounds lie to the south of the country inhabited by the Crees, have also a very distinct and well-marked form of stone pipe, which enables any one conversant with the customs of Indians to recognise it as characteristic of the Ojibway people. It was suggested that if this peculiarity in the form of

the stone pipes in use by different Indian nations in their natural state should be found to be constant, it might form a valuable mean in the hands of the archaeologist of arriving at some clue respecting the "Mound builders" of the valleys of the Mississippi, the St. Lawrence, and elsewhere.

Colonel LEFROY stated that, in the Rocky Mountains, there existed another lake, called the Punchbowl, from which the water flowed in one direction into the Pacific and in the other into the Arctic basin.

Captain SPEKE, with reference to Lake Nyanza, said he had only seen one outlet, but he had been informed there were four outlets, and he had no reason to doubt the accuracy of the statement.

The meeting was then adjourned to Monday, the 8th of February.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

(Printed by order of Council.)

1. Extracts from Private Letters received from M. DU CHAILLU.

THE following extracts from letters recently received from M. du Chaillu by Fellows of the Society, who have kindly placed them at the disposal of the Council for publication, explain the position and prospect of that enthusiastic traveller at latest accounts, and may be considered supplementary to the letter read by the President at the Society's Meeting of 23rd November (v. Proceedings, Vol. viii. No. 1, p. 18).

"Fernand Vaz River, 18th October, 1863.

"I have arrived, as you will see by the heading of my letter, at the intended field of my explorations. I have met with a great misfortune, the boat containing my scientific instruments upset, and most of them have been spoilt. I was on board myself, but thanks to a kind Providence my life was spared.

"I send to Gaboon a little box containing a gold watch, a pocket chronometer, and a small sextant, to be forwarded to your care, and should be exceedingly obliged if you would forward them to the care of the Royal Geographical Society." *

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"Fernand Vaz, 19th October, 1863.

"I shall stay near the sea-shore until the end of the rainy season, say the beginning of May, so that I shall have time to receive a further supply of scientific instruments before proceeding into the interior. Just now I am building a large bamboo house, which is to be my abode till I leave the coast. Housebuilding is not very expensive; my new abode, which will be a palace as compared with my present wretched hut, will only cost me some 25L.

"Everything looks well in regard to my future explorations. The way is clear before me. I have been very heartily received by the natives, who said they never expected to see me again, as I had been so long of returning to them. I have thus far enjoyed pretty good health; but one attack of fever, which I got over in a few days. As soon as my house is finished, I intend to begin taking photographs, as these will add greatly to the interest of any new geographical facts I may obtain for my next work. At present, living as I do in a dark native hut, I do not care to unpack my chemicals.

"The weather is beginning to become very hot."

* The box with enclosures was received, and repairs made good.